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NLU 03-29 #12

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-11

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 INR-06
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PRS-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 RSR-01 RSC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8059
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
CINCSO

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/16/77
PER FDevine OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. #30373 Ronfeldt

Montevideo 1599
8/6/70

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1599

LIMDIS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

BOGOTA FOR MEYER

SUBJECT: MITRIONE KIDNAPPING - FURTHER VIEWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER.

1. DURING 40 MINUTE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEIRANO FACIO THIS AFTERNOON, I TOLD HIM THAT AS MLN KIDNAPPERS HAD NOW FIXED A DEADLINE FOR GOU RESPONSE TO RANSOM DEMANDS, I WANTED TO REPEAT MY CONCERN AND HOPE THAT NO COMMUNICATIONS IMPASSE EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. I ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER HE COULD TELL ME WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD LAST MLN NOTE.

2. FONMIN BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NO REPEAT NO DOUBT THAT THERE MANY COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS AVAILABLE FOR USE. FOR HIS PART HE FELT THAT MAN BEST INFORMED ABOUT SOME OF THESE CHANNELS IS VICE PRESIDENT ALBERTO ABDALA. HE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A SUGGESTION TO ME: THAT I SEEK IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW WITH THE VICE

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PRESIDENT TO ASK HIM WHAT HE HAD HEARD. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT AS A LONG-TIME POLITICIAN HAD MANY CONTACTS, SOME OF WHICH WERE PROBABLY WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE MLN. PEIRANO SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED A "GENERAL MACCHI" IN THIS REGARD, SAYING THAT HE WAS ACTIVE IN ABDALA'S POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS A TUPAMARO. (NOTE: I ASSUME FONMIN REFERS TO RETIRED ARMY COL. RUBEN M. MACCHI WHOSE DAUGHTER GELSI MACCHI IS TUPAMARO WHO IS AT LARGE AFTER ESCAPE FROM WOMEN'S PRISON.) THE FONMIN SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING SITUATION AND THAT AS THINGS STAND NOW, THE VICE PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THAT THE MLN DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO KILL MITRIONE AND GOMIDES EVEN IF GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO CURRENT TUPAMARO RANSOM DEMANDS. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, TUPAMAROS PLAN TO EXTRACT ALL INFORMATION POSSIBLE FROM VICTIMS AND THEN PUBLISH AS MUCH DERROGATORY INFORMATION ON THEM AS THEY CAN. THIS WILL BE VICTIMS' "SENTENCE". FONMIN SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED ABDALA AS GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND TOLD ME TO TELL VICE PRESIDENT THAT HE, FONMIN, HAD RECOMMENDED I SEE HIM. UNDOUBTEDLY OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAD OTHER CHANNELS TO MLN BUT FONMIN BELIEVED FOR HIS PART THAT I WOULD FIND ABDALA WELL INFORMED. THROUGHOUT THIS PART OF CONVERSATION, FONMIN DID NOT BY ANY IMPLICATION INDICATE VEEP WAS HIMSELF TUPAMARO BUT RATHER AS OLD POLITICAL WARHORSE, OCCUPYING PRESIDENCY OF URUGUAYAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HIS CONTACTS AND INFORMATION WERE VERY BROAD.

3. AS REGARDS FURTHER STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT, FONMIN REPEATED WHAT HE TOLD EMBOFF TODAY, THAT PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING MAJOR APPEAL TO COUNTRY. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO FURTHER GOU REACTION TO LATEST NOTE OF KIDNAPPERS, FONMIN INDICATED THAT SINCE MLN RANSOM DEMANDS HAVE NOT CHANGED, COMMUNIQUE BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF AUGUST 4 REMAINS AS OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY GOU RE SITUATION AND GOVERNMENT PLANS NO FURTHER PUBLIC DECLARATION FOR PRESENT (EXCEPT PRESIDENT'S APPEAL MENTIONED ABOVE).

4. FONMIN STRESSED AS HE HAS ON OTHER OCCASIONS THAT CONTINUED TUPAMARO INSISTENCE ON RELEASE OF ALL PRISONERS IS "IMPOSSIBLE" DEMAND. I PRESSED HIM AS TO WHETHER HE WAS NOW SAYING THAT GOU WOULD REFUSE TO CONSIDER EXCHANGE ANY NUMBER OF PRISONERS FOR MITRIONE AND GOMIDE. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, RATHER THERE MUST BE SOME "PARITY". IF THE MLN ASKED FOR FREEDOM FOR EXAMPLE, OF TWO PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR TWO KIDNAPPED VICTIMS,

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THIS WOULD BE QUITE A DIFFERENT SITUATION. BUT DEMAND FOR HALMLN PRISONERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE "ABSURD".

5. I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH VICE PRESIDENT AT 1740 HOURS LOCAL TODAY.
ADAIR

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